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UM, Zenith Firm 'Know Nothing' Of 'Link' to CIA

By DON BOHNING
Herald Staff Writer

If the Central Intelligence Agency is operating under the guise of an electronics research firm on the University of Miami South Campus, school officials said Monday they are unaware of it.

An article appearing in the current issue of Look Magazine, claims the Zenith Technical Enterprises on the UM South Campus is a "cover" for the CIA.

"As far as we're concerned," said University Vice President and Treasurer Gene Cohen, "the university is leasing space to an organization we consider a good tenant which pays its rent promptly.

"There's nothing to indicate they have any connection with the CIA."

Zenith Manager H. Robert Graham also denied any dealings with the CIA.

"We have an electronics research job that we do here that is highly classified and we work with the Department of Defense," Graham said. "We know absolutely nothing about the CIA."

Graham said Zenith had opened its office on the South Campus in September 1961.

The firm, he said, is a subcontractor for a Defense Department prime contractor.

Cohen, who handled the lease arrangements for the university, said there is nothing unusual about it. "We have leased space to quite a few different enterprises where we appeared to have space available for what they wanted."

Cohen said the relationship between the CIA and some universities is two-way. "The agency secretly finances research programs at some universities, in turn, the universities help to recruit CIA personnel."

In addition to Zenith, Look claimed "the CIA has also operated under at least three other commercial cover names in Miami."

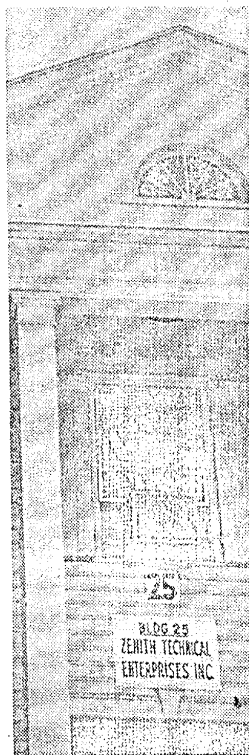
They were listed as the Double-Check Corp., the Gibraltar Steamship Corp and the Vanguard Service Corp.

Miami Springs Attorney Alex Carlson, president of Double-Check, said he "has no knowledge of any such implication."

He said Double-Check has been inactive since the spring of 1961 and its purpose at the time "was as a procurement agency for aviation personnel."

number. There was no answer Monday.

Gibraltar Steamship moved to Miami from New York in September 1961 to operate Radio Swan, a 50-kilowatt station on Swan Island off the coast of Honduras. It beams anti-Castro news to Latin America.



Building 25

Double-Check and recruited four U.S. fliers killed during the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

Offices for both Gibraltar Steamship and Vanguard Service are listed in the Langford Building under the same phone.

U. S. Drops Germs, Says Castro

HAVANA — (UPI) — Prime Minister Fidel Castro charged Monday that "Yankee imperialism" is "testing or attempting to carry out" germ warfare against Cuba.

In an official communique released by the National Palace, he claimed balloon-carried bacteriological cultures have been dropped on Cuba.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman dismissed Castro's charge in three words: "Absurd and preposterous."

Cuba's communique said. "The probability has been taken into consideration that imperialism is testing or attempting to carry out the use of a new model of aggression, brutal and inhuman, (against Cuba): the use of bacteriological and virus weapons against our economy and people."

The communique said that on May 29 several balloons of different size were seen falling near Sancti Spiritus in Las Villas province.

As soon as they hit the ground, the note said, the balloons dissolved "dropping a gelatinous substance similar to that which is used in bacteria cultures, which also rapidly dissolved."

The note said strong rains prevented gathering of samples which could be given "exhaustive chemical research."